

Chapter 24 - Principles on People in the Process of Application
Pages 325- 329 - Lecture Notes & Answers to Questions

Community is an important part of the Christian life - It is not God's plan that we are "maverick" or hermit Christians.

1 Corinthians 12-14 The Church, the Body of Christ

Hebrews 10:24-25 do not forsake meeting - spur one another on to love & good deeds

"We become like the people with whom we associate: if we want to be godly, we need to associate with godly people."

Questions: What dangers are there in trying to live the Christian life in isolation from other Christians?

There are many. Here are some: *Being conformed to this world / being swayed by false doctrine because other believers are not present to help you stand firm in the faith. *Becoming an authority unto yourself about what the Scriptures mean. *Continued immaturity in the areas not gifted by God, because there is no interaction with those who are so gifted by God. *Continued / increased selfishness since there is no exercise of spiritual gifts. *Failure to earn rewards / crowns in heaven due to lack of spiritual service in this life.

Rule 26 - We must maintain an accountability relationship with a group of people who will exhort us to faith and good works - Pages 326-328

While our focus is to please God, not people, the influence of other people is important. We need encouragement and accountability from others including those who love us enough to tell us when we are wrong.

Hebrews 3:13 - encourage one another daily - to avoid being hardened by sin's deceitfulness

Matthew 18:15-17 - the steps of church discipline

2 Samuel 12 - Nathan's rebuke of King David

Proverbs 20:5 - Others who will draw out our understanding

1 Samuel 23:16 - Jonathan helping David

Jeremiah 17:9 - our hearts are deceitful, accountability helps give us objectivity

Hebrews 13:17 - church leaders are there to help protect your soul

Accountability requires others to know you well enough to recognize what is going on in your life and have the freedom to intervene

Questions:

Who are some of the people that have most influenced your life in living for the Lord Jesus Christ?

There have been many in my life some of whom I no longer remember their names: My parents first since they began my training. Certain Sunday School teachers in 5th, 6th & 7th grade. Rev. Scott - God & Country Award. A couple in my senior year - their sacrifice to serve the Lord. Pastor Phil Adams. The Britton family. John MacArthur and several staff at Grace Community Church - Jim George. Several Seminary professors: Irv Businetz, Robert Thomas, Hermeneutics professor, Christian Education professor, Dr. Holloman. Other pastors I have worked with - Dan O'Donnell, men on IFCA Executive Committee. Many people in church I have served with here - in particular

John Halpin, Ed Colon & Ray Marchetti. My wife, Diane, has been a special blessing and my sons have forced me to put into action what I say I believe.

How were they able to stimulate you toward love and good deeds?

Some by the understanding of the Scriptures they imparted to me. Some by the examples of godly living they set before me. Some by their particular spiritual gifts which helped me to grow in those areas. Some by being encouragers toward greater holiness. Some by warnings and admonition when I strayed. Some by imparting practical wisdom in applying scriptures to life. Most by a mixture

What is the difference in response between King Saul when he was confronted by Samuel (1 Samuel 15) and David when he was confronted by Nathan (2 Samuel 12)?

King Saul denied, then shifted the blame, then gave a false repentance, but remained proud and sought to have Samuel still honor him before the people - a means by which he could maintain authority over the people. David simply admitted his guilt and cast himself upon the mercies of God

What are some things both men could have done to avoid falling into sin? (That you can do too!)

Both could have avoided their respective sins if they had remained faithful to carry out God's commands and remained humble instead of proudly doing what they thought best.

What is necessary for a fellowship of Christians to be able to help each other live for Christ? What must you do and what must you allow others to do?

There must be humility, a knowledge of the word of God, a commitment to follow God's commandments, and exercise of spiritual gifts.

What are some ways in which you can encourage other Christians in their walk with Christ?

1) Be a good example. 2) Proclaim the truth. 3) Encourage other to live godly lives. 4) Be willing to speak the truth in love. 5) Be involved to help a struggling brother overcome their sins.

Rule 27 - Godly counsel is helpful in the quest for obedience, but it should never be used to avoid personal responsibility - pages 328-329

We walk by faith, not by sight. Godly counsel should encourage such a walk, not be a substitute for it - or a hindrance.

Godly counsel should

- 1) Help us check the validity of our thinking
- 2) Help us gain additional or new insights.

Putting out a "fleece" (cf. Gideon - Judges 6) - while not specifically prohibited - is not a good idea. Gideon did this because of his lack of belief / trust. If we know what is right to do and do not do it, it is sin (James 4:17). While a "fleece" might help eliminate uncertainty - it should never put God to the test (Deut. 6:16; Matt. 4:7)

In seeking counsel the issue is obtaining help in clarifying one's thinking

Do not seek counsel as a means to shift the burden of responsibility to the counselor

Using godly counsel as a "fleece" does not eliminate risk taking or the need to walk by faith

What are the proper purposes of godly counsel?

The primary purpose is the help the person understand God and His will and live accordingly so that Christ will be glorified. That usually involves: *identifying sin and its roots in wrong belief about God and His will. *Correcting wrong beliefs through the truth of God's word. *Finding ways to step forward to trust and obey God. *Helping in practical ways so that obedience will take place.

What are the dangers of ungodly counsel? (See Psalm 1)

The primary danger of ungodly counsel is that it will instill into you ungodliness in actions and belief. What begins as listening to ungodly counsel can quickly move to believing ungodly counsel and then espousing / teaching that ungodly counsel.

How can you discern between godly and ungodly counsel?

Godly counsel will center on the character, nature and revelation of God in the Scriptures. Ungodly counsel will center on the person seeking counsel. Godly counsel seeks to move the counselee to a greater understanding and walk with God. Ungodly counsel seeks to comfort and satisfy the emotions and desires of the counselee - strategies for gaining what is desired.

What is the danger of putting out a "fleece" to determine God's will?

First, it may be "putting God to the test" which is prohibited by Scripture - Deut. 6:16; Matthew 4:7. Second, it may be a form of disobedience if it is being done to determine whether you should obey a command of the Lord or not. Third, it may be a form of disobedience / attempted manipulation to gain what is selfishly desired / avoid what is not desired. Fourth, it can easily feed a mysticism that becomes a substitute for faith in God Himself.

Chapter 25 - An Example of Application, from the Life of David

1 Samuel 24 & 26

A series of Biblical principles taken from the life of David and then applied to the situation being faced by Bill with his dad - who keeps intervening unilaterally into a business he has supposedly turned over to Bill.

Insights from David's life on His relationship with God that allowed him to respond in such a godly way
- Page 324-325

- 1) The battle belongs to the Lord - 1 Samuel 17:47 - Defeating Goliath
- 2) God is His deliverer regardless of the circumstances - 1 Samuel 17:37 (delivered from paw of bear and mouth of the lion)
- 3) David found His strength in the Lord - 1 Samuel 30:6
- 4) David had a pure heart - 1 Samuel 16:7
- 5) David had the Holy Spirit working in him - 1 Samuel 16:13 - all believers have this
- 6) same as #2 - David remembered God's faithfulness from the past
- 7) David gave it over to God publically - 1 Samuel 17:45
- 8) David sought godly counsel - 1 Samuel 19:18

9) David had the support of others - 1 Samuel 19:18

10) David truly loved Saul & Jonathan despite Saul's behavior toward him - 1 Sam. 20:14-42

Conclusion:

Biblical application is a lifelong process. You must learn the word and you must learn to apply it. Both occur over the entire lifetime

We apply the Scriptures as a result of being godly, not just doing godly things. The closer our walk with God in faith, the better we will be able to apply the truths of His word.

Question:

What did you learn as you read Chapter 25 - *An Example of Application, from the Life of David*. Are their applications you can make from that study in your own life?

The life of David continues to be a inspiration to me no matter how many times I have examined it - both in the positive example so often seen in his trust of God - but also in the danger I face, because if a man like David could stumble and fall, then the same is true of me and I must be vigilant to be on guard and have men around me that will help me stand firm and not waver.